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MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. V FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1943 No. 13

Beginning of a New Campaign

OUR ATTACK on the Gilbert Islands is the beginning of a new campaign from the Central Pacific in a much more direct route towards Japan

THE CAMPAIGN has two general objectives, firstly, to drive the Japanese from the mandated islands, and secondly, to shorten by hundreds of miles the United States supply lines to the South-East Pacific

THE FACT that we are undertaking the campaign is a clear demonstration of our overwhelming strength in sea and air power. The Navy staged a diversionary attack against the Marshall Islands, aimed at keeping the Japanese out of the air There was very little air interference. No enemy surface elements have been seen. The only place I know where the Japanese Navy may have gathered in strength would be at Truk, but they have not yet come out from their shelter

COLONEL FRANK KNOX, *United States Navy Secretary, at a Press Conference in Washington, on Tuesday (November 23)*

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OBJECT OF AIRCRAFT PRODUCTION

Britain's aircraft production aim is to build up an ever-growing bomber force, so that we shall be able to swamp completely the defences of Germany. The effectiveness of our bombing effort really depends upon the numbers we can send over on any given occasion. The Germans are concentrating everything on defence to-day, and the more we can saturate their defences, the more we can protect the lives of our pilots and their crews who go over to bomb Germany. There is a great deal more than we should like to do, but which we cannot do, because we have not the labour.

—Sir STAFFORD CRIPPS, *speaking on Wednesday, November 24.*

◆

FOR FULL EMPLOYMENT

I see no real barriers in our way to the building of a new and better Britain. No principles of capitalism or socialism or any other ism need, or must, interfere with the complete liberty of action of the Government in making certain that there is full employment.

It is of no use having a plan unless there is power to see that it is implemented in its main points. With control of investment and of production planning, we should be able to achieve the kind of flexibility that will be essential to support our export trade after the war—a flexibility which individual private industries cannot themselves attain.

—Sir STAFFORD CRIPPS, *British Minister for Aircraft Production, speaking at Bristol on Saturday, November 20.*

◆

BEST WAY TO SHORTEN WAR

We must at all costs avoid the temptation of trying to fix an early date when the war in Europe will be won. When that day comes, we (the United States and Britain) will both be free to put all our strength into the war for finishing with Japan. Meanwhile, the best way for shortening the war is to go on preparing for a long one. The end may be closer than many of us suspect, but the enemy is still strong. If we are determined, as we are, to win and win quickly, we must go on putting into our effort all we have.

—Lord HALIFAX, *the British Ambassador to America, in a broadcast on Sunday, November 21.*

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Madras War Review

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

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POST-WAR RELIEF AND REHABILITATION

A MESSAGE from Atlantic City published in Tuesday's papers reveals some of the proposals contained in the final report of the Committee on the scope of the activities of the United Nations' Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. It seems UNRRA has officially placed itself on record as being ready to operate in Axis territory charging each country for its activities. The Administration is prepared to seize any surplus food in each enemy country. The report has defined the areas in which UNRRA will operate, the range of supplies which it will provide, and the relation of UNRRA with military commanders. Mr. Herbert Lehman, Director, explained that the Administration would seek information as to any surpluses of supply available in enemy territory from which relief and rehabilitation import requirements of liberated areas might be met. The powers taken by UNRRA to conduct relief operations in liberated areas do not mean or involve encroachment on the sovereignty of the recipient nations.

THE object of the great relief organization set up by the Conference of the United Nations which met at Atlantic City is, as pointed out by President Roosevelt in his address on November 9 welcoming the delegates, that of "bringing starving civilian war victims back to normal." President Roosevelt explained that the rehabilitation phase would have to be limited and that it would include such matters as sending seed abroad to grow crops, agricultural implements to harvest them, and cows to start new dairy herds, but it would not include everything necessary to bring the nation back to full economic level, as the nations concerned would have to do it themselves.

Each nation to share the burden

THE plan outlining the methods of financing the UNRRA's extensive relief programme which was completed on Monday (November 22), makes this position very clear. It says, "It shall be the policy of the Administration not to deplete its available resources for relief and rehabilitation in any area, whose Government is in a position to pay with suitable means of foreign exchange." The point is that each nation must share the burden according to its ability. So far as relief work is concerned, the UNRRA will seek to provide supplies and services such as food, fuel, clothing, shelter, medicine, etc., and as for rehabilitation, it will do all it possibly can to help in the restoration of public utilities and services, the normal functioning of which was upset or disorganized by enemy occupation.

THE attitude of UNRRA toward the dual aspect of its responsibilities was summed up by the President's statement that rehabilitation would be treated in a narrower sense and relief in its broader meaning.

Bold steps towards freedom from want

THE delegates of the 44 United Nations who signed the Relief and Rehabilitation Agreement at Washington on November 9, have done so after a full realisation of its implications and the responsibilities that their respective nations have to discharge in the interests of the common cause. Our readers may be interested to know that Great Britain was the first to take official interest in the important problem of relief of countries freed

[*See overleaf*

from enemy occupation. The first public statement of policy in regard to post-war relief was made by Mr. Churchill in the House of Commons on August 20, 1940. The Prime Minister said :

"We can, and we will, arrange in advance for the speedy entry of food into any part of the enslaved area, when this part has been wholly cleared of German forces, and has genuinely regained its freedom. We shall do our best to encourage the building up of reserves of food all over the world, so that there will always be held up before the eyes of the people of Europe, including—I say it deliberately—the German and Austrian peoples, the certainty that the shattering of the Nazi power will bring to them all immediate food, freedom and peace."

Inter-Allied Conference in London

IN pursuance of this declaration, enquiries into the question of post-war relief were begun by a number of departments of the British Government. An Inter-Allied Conference consisting of representatives of Britain, the Dominions of the British Commonwealth, Soviet Russia and Continental European Allied countries, was held at St. James's Palace a year after Mr. Churchill's declaration. Addressing the Conference on September 24, 1941, Mr. Eden, Britain's Foreign Secretary, referred to the preliminary work that had been done by a Ministerial Committee on Export Surpluses, of which the Minister without Portfolio was chairman, and a Committee of British Government Officials under the chairmanship of Sir Frederick Leith-Ross, Chief Economic Adviser to His Majesty's Government. The primary concern of these Committees was the purchase of surplus commodities mainly within the British Empire for the purpose of stabilizing the economic conditions of the territories concerned. Further, Mr. Eden pointed out, "We have been mindful also of their value as a potential relief store for the European peoples . . . . . The two Committees . . . . . have therefore also started enquiries as to probable European needs."

Six-point resolution

THE Inter-Allied Conference referred to above adopted a six-point resolution which stated, *inter alia*, that while each of the Allied Governments would be primarily responsible for the relief of its own people, there should be co-ordination of their respective plans. In pursuance of paragraph 6 of the Resolution, an Inter-Allied Committee was set up to prepare estimates of post-war European requirements of food, raw materials and articles of prime necessity. Soon after the United States entered the war, the Government of that country also participated in the post-war plan. Mr. Herbert Lehman was appointed in November 1942 as Director of Foreign Relief and Rehabilitation to undertake the work of organizing the American participation in the relief activities. Viscount Cranborne, Britain's Lord Privy Seal, announced a month afterwards that Britain, America and the other United Nations were in close consultation in regard to the preparation of a general plan acceptable to all.

Four principal features

IN the early months of this year, a practical programme of action emerged as a result of the consultations. And this programme was based on the four principal features outlined by Mr. Eden at the Inter-Allied Conference in London. He said at that Conference :

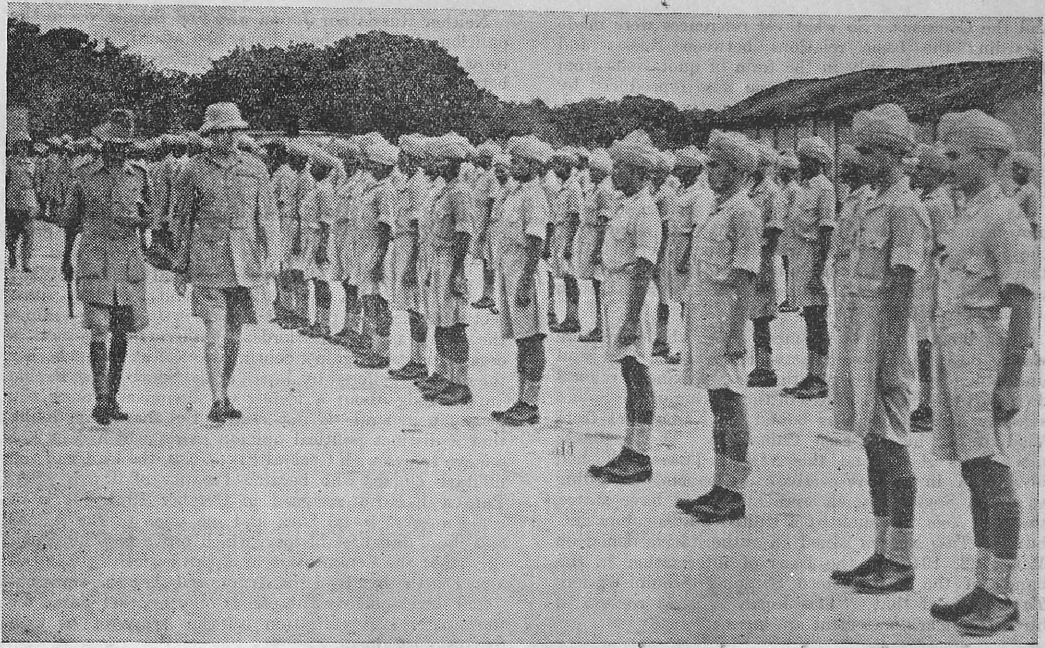
"At the outset, a comprehensive survey must be made of probable requirements in the order of their urgency, and data must be collected regarding potentially available supplies. A broad scheme of long-distance transport must be planned well in advance. Gradually, reserve stocks must be organized in the most convenient places. In due course, the administration and finance of their transfer to Europe and of their further distribution must be arranged."

Moscow Agreement and Atlantic City decisions

THE Atlantic City decisions have put into practical shape these broad features. This process has further strengthened the ties of unity of the nations which are fighting against tyranny and aggression. Referring to this, President Roosevelt said in a broadcast on the occasion of the signing of the UNRRA Agreement :

"It is with a lift of hope that we look on the signing of this Agreement by all of the United Nations as a means of joining them together still more firmly." Referring to the Conference which began the next day, he said it "makes the first bold steps toward a practicable and workable realization of freedom from want."

SCEPTICS there were who doubted whether the principles of the Moscow Agreement would stand up to the hard light of reality. The decisions of the UNRRA Conference must have gone a long way to dispel their doubts.



COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF (INDIA) TOURS CENTRAL COMMAND.—*During the course of his tour, the Commander-in-Chief inspected hundreds of young men undergoing training at the I.A.M.C. Training Centre.*

RUNNING COMMENTARY

The War in the Far East—Soviet View of the Present Situation

In our issue of Nov. 12, we referred to the Tokyo dinner in honour of the 26th anniversary of the Russian Revolution, in which the Japanese Foreign and Finance Ministers participated. We discussed the past history of Russo-Japanese relations and pointed out that the present attitude of friendship was based on fear and convenience. This curious mixture of professed friendship and innate distrust of each other is clearly revealed in the comments of the press and radio of these two countries. A message from Moscow on Monday (Nov. 22) gave a summary of an article published in the current issue of *War and the Working Class*. In the course of a review of the results of the 83rd extraordinary session of the Japanese Parliament, the article discusses the military situation in the Pacific and says that it is now far from being in favour of Japan as the initiative has passed to the American armed forces. The Soviet writer says that Japan is feeling the shortage of experienced cadres and raw materials. He then refers to the latest speeches of General TOJO and Mr. SHIGEMITSU and says, "One has not to be too perspicacious to see behind these Japan's wish for unlimited domination in the entire East Asia, but the Japanese Imperialists cannot be reproached with lack of elasticity and inventive capacity. Japanese politicians are quickly reorganising themselves and beginning to apply other methods. They are covering up the policy of brute force with resourceful demagogy."

The writer then goes on to point out that the new zig-zag policy in East Asia is an indication of the really serious political and military difficulties confronting the Japanese Empire. "Having lost the assurance about the possibility of a favourable outcome of the war," he says, "Japanese politicians are evidently looking for new ways and means of retaining their full political, military and economic domination."

Weakening of Japan's Naval and Air Power—Russian Correspondent's Analysis

Such anti-Japanese comments have been sometimes appearing in the Soviet press. It may be recalled that Col. M. TOLCHENOV, the Military Correspondent of the *Kranaya Zvezda*, wrote a series of articles under the heading "War in the Pacific", in which he gave a detailed and by no means pro-Japanese analysis of events in the Pacific. On the eve of the fall of Singapore, instead of harping on the Japanese victories, he emphasised the growing strength of the United States Navy. After the first stage of the Pacific War was over in April 1942, TOLCHENOV declared that the battle for India or Australia would demand considerably greater efforts than Japan has so far made and that the Japanese victories were not decisive. These victories were the results of aerial superiority, but, he pointed out, the situation had considerably changed, and the Battle for New Guinea and New Britain were visible signs of the growing air strength of the Allies.

In conclusion, TOLCHENOV expressed the opinion that the great distances separating Japan's troops from their home bases and the enormously lengthened communications were creating great difficulties for her and were bound to affect her future operations. The Japanese naval power had become weakened, and this very serious factor was having its effect on Japanese offensive capacity.

* * * * *

Anniversary of Russo-Jap Pact passes unnoticed in Russia!

As regards the general tone of the Soviet press, it follows a policy of circumspection regarding Russo-Japanese relations and Japanese affairs in general. In 1942 there was an extremely delicate situation between the Soviet Union and Japan and it was highly necessary to avoid any clash in the Far East, when the German armies were advancing to the Volga

and the Caucasus. So whatever references were made regarding the basic relations between Russia and Japan, they were only in the form of quotations from official Japanese speeches; these were reproduced by the Soviet press and wireless without any comment. It is significant that the second anniversary of the signing of the Soviet-Japanese Neutrality Pact concluded in April 1941 passed unnoticed in the Soviet Union!

As a general rule, rumours about Japanese troop movements on the Manchurian front were ignored by the Soviet press, and there was also no reference to the Lend-Lease supplies from United States of America for the Soviet Union passing across the Pacific through Japanese controlled waters.

This, however, does not mean that, whenever there was occasion the Soviet attitude was not firm and unconciliatory. Eight months ago, Japanese reports described the circumstances of the sinking of the Soviet steamer *Kola*, which was bound for Kamchatka from Vladivostok, in the East China Sea. The Japanese newspapers *Ashai* and the *Nippon Times* published interviews in the respective newspapers, according to which Soviet seamen were alleged to have stated that the *Kola* was sunk by a United States submarine, but the *Tass Agency* issued an authoritative denial on March 22, 1943, on the basis of information in the hands of the Far Eastern Shipping Administration. *Tass* declared that, "The Japanese press reports of Soviet seamen's statement are untrue."

* * * * *

Japanese Attitude: A significant Tokyo Broadcast to Germany

As regards the attitude of the Japanese press and the radio the position is more or less similar. The general policy on which the comments are based is that Japan's relations with Russia rest on the basis of the Pact of Neutrality. For instance, a Tokyo broadcast in German on May 5, 1943, declared that Chungking had been circulating reports intended to start a conflict between Japan and Russia, but that, as Russo-Japanese relations were based on the Neutrality Pact, Chungking intrigues merely revealed the desperate situation of that Government. The significance of this lies in the fact that it was included in a broadcast to Germany!

As regards supplies, including war materials, from the United States to Russia's Far Eastern harbours, Japan has been specially careful not to interfere forcibly with the supply ships. It is estimated that nearly one-third of all Lend-Lease goods sent to Russia had been going over the Pacific route to Vladivostok. This fact was revealed in March 1943 in Washington by a map appended to the quarterly Lend-Lease report to the Congress, in which the relative quantities of goods shipped were indicated.

* * * * *

Armed Truce of Strange Bedfellows—Jap radio and press comments

The Japanese radio comments show a note of uneasiness in addition to that of caution. Now and then there is reference to the Russo-Japanese relationships. For instance, Major-General YAHAGI, spokesman of the Kwantung Army said in April 1943 that the situation along the Manchurian border remained quiet and that cases of Soviet troops illegally crossing the frontier had decreased, but, he added, Japanese forces were prepared for all eventualities.

As regards the Japanese press, there are occasional attempts to make mischief between Russia and the Allies on the Goebbels' model. Sometimes Russia is shown as fighting alone, as Britain and the United States had let her down. Sometimes the smaller European countries are stated to have been abandoned by the Allies for the sake of Russia. But generally such comments are few and restrained.

Neither Russia nor Japan who find themselves in the position of strange bedfellows can afford, at present, to come out openly with the differences that exist between them. As we emphasized in our last article on the subject, the armed truce is convenient and advantageous to both sides for the present.

* * * * *

Japan's Internal Political Situation—A Retrospect

In the course of the article published in *War and the Working Class*, to which we have referred earlier, the Soviet writer says, "The general internal political situation is becoming increasingly tense." What exactly he means by that statement, whether some sections at least of political opinion in Japan are against the policy of the war-lords, whether such opinion is organizing itself against continuance of the war, whether the reverses suffered by Japan in the South-West Pacific are bringing about a feeling of pessimism among the people in general—is not clear. But there is no doubt that a distinct political opinion exists which does not see eye to eye with General EIKI TOJO, the leader of the military clique, who became Premier of Japan when PRINCE KONOYE resigned in October 1941. It is of some interest to go back and see some of the salient aspects of Japanese history, which prove very emphatically that the Constitution in Japan is nothing else but a tool in the hands of the Army, and that the constitutional development of Japan is only another name for the progressive realization by the Army of its own expansionist aims.

It was on February 11, 1889, that the present constitution of Japan was promulgated. The author of the constitution is stated to be PRINCE ITO who is said to have drawn it after a study of the Prussian constitution. Referring to it TOMIO NAKANO, a Japanese authority, says:

> "With the exception of the constitutions of some of the German monarchical states . . . the Japanese constitution was, perhaps, the most autocratic in the world."

Under this constitution, the Emperor had extensive and extraordinary powers which he could exercise by means of Imperial Ordinances. He had "supreme command of the Army and the Navy." The responsibility of the Army and the Navy Chiefs was to the Emperor, not to the Japanese Parliament.

The Emperor's great importance in the militarist's scheme of things was emphasized by Tadahiko Imaizumi in a broadcast last month (October 18):

> "No nation except Japan," he said, "can carry out a sacred war . . . His Majesty of Japan is the Emperor of the World . . . The Emperors of Japan are the Sons of Gods and Heaven in actuality . . . If the Ways of the Emperor are understood fully by the people in the world, there should not be any objection to having our Emperor as the World's Ruler."

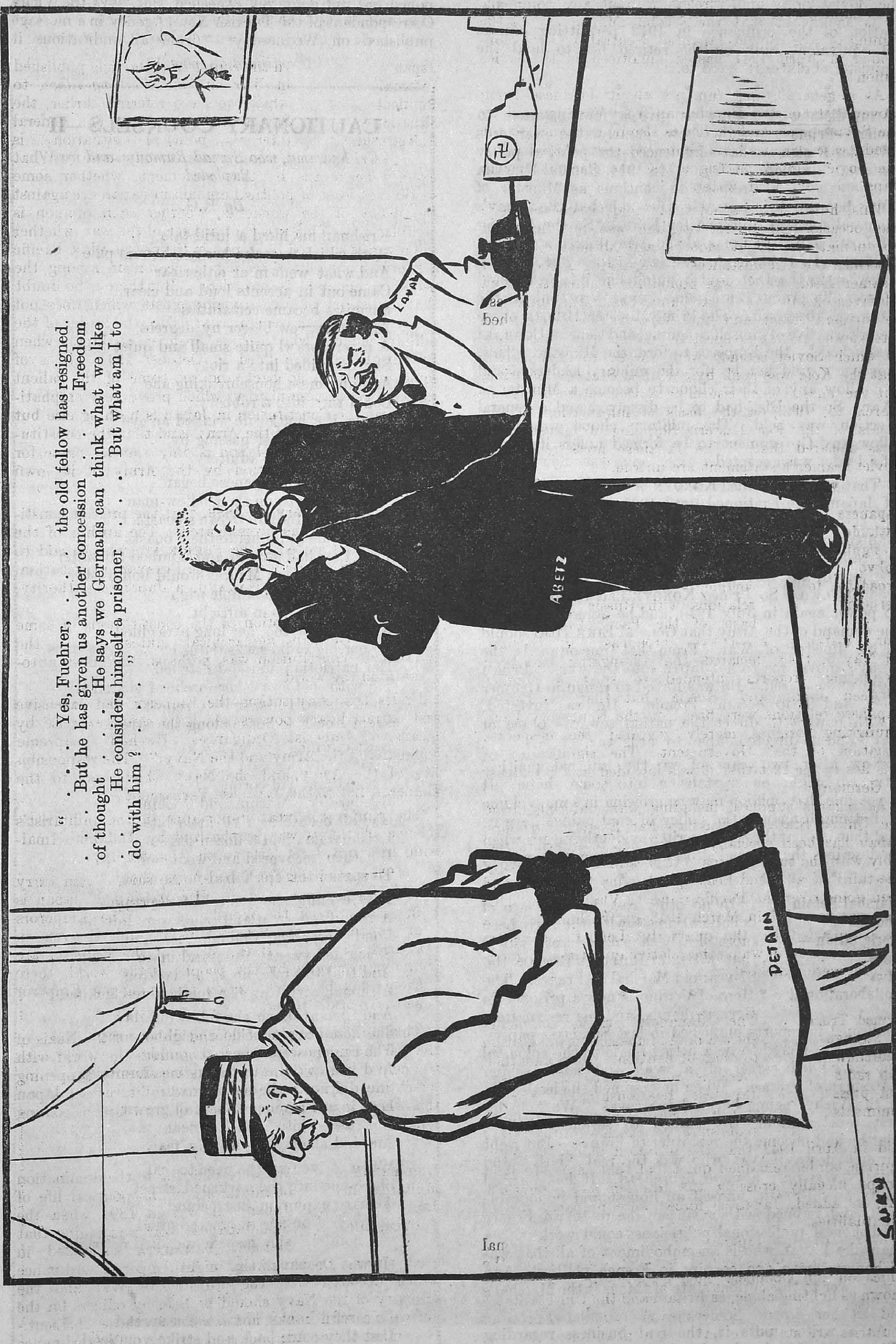
This is no doubt the belief and dream of the Nazis of the Far East whose aim is to dominate the world with the help of the sword, but things are already happening which must show to the power-mad militarists of Japan that there is not much prospect of their dream coming true.

* * * * *

Domination of Militarists in Japan's Political Life

We were referring to the domination of militarists in the political life of Japan. It was in 1894 when the Sino-Japanese War was raging that Marshal YAMAGATA succeeded in securing the promulgation of an Imperial Ordinance which declared that the Ministry of War and the Ministry of the Navy should be held by officers on the active list with ranks not lower than those of Lieut.-General and Vice-Admiral, respectively. The Ordinance looks unobjectionable, its ostensible reason being the

(*Continued on page* 8)



—*Specially drawn for the* MADRAS WAR REVIEW.

(*Continued from page* 6)

promotion of efficiency. But the actual effect of such a reform was the transference of the balance of power in the State to the chiefs of the Army and the Navy. In other words, the domestic and foreign policy of Japan was handed over to the war-lords. There was a modification of the ordinance in 1912 permitting officers of equivalent rank on the retired list to hold the ministerial offices referred to.

* * * * *

Army dictates policy—Prime Minister Resign—Internal Situation

Let us give a few instances to show how greatly the war-lords have influenced the political policy of Japan. In 1914, General UEHARA refused to continue as Minister of War because the Japanese Diet rejected the Army's demand for two divisions for Korea. So the Premier of Japan had to resign, and the Army scored a political victory. In 1936 the Army came in for a good deal of criticism in the Diet, and it didn't like it! So General COUNT TERAUCHI threatened to resign unless the Diet was dissolved. The Prime Minister HIROTA chose the alternative of himself resigning, and General UGAKAKI was asked by the Emperor to form the Ministry. This, however, could not be, for the military leaders would not allow any of their clique to become a Minister of War. So the Diet had to be dissolved and a general election was held. The military clique would not allow any Government to be formed unless its choice of a leader was accepted.

That was how Prince KONOYE became Prime Minister of Japan. He continued until 1939, when he resgined on account of differences with the militarists who wanted closer alignment with Axis powers. After his resignation, the Army was creating difficulties in the way of any Government which held views different from its own. So Prince KONOYE had to come back to power again in July 1940, and he agreed to accept the demand of the Army that General EIKE TOJO should be his Minister of War. From that time onwards, the Army's move was to get Japan into the war. Prince KONOYE hesitated. He was forced to resign in October 1941, and TOJO became Premier. He was invested, "with powers to direct the nation towards peace or war," and he directed Japan towards war.

Now after two years of war the internal political situation might be crystalising into some shape. It is possible that opinion may be growing in some volume and strength against the policy of continuing the war, and that is what the Soviet writer evidently means when he describes the internal situation as becoming tense.

* * * * *

Marshal Petain and his Resignation—Fate of a Collaborationist

In no other case has the fate of collaborationists with the Axis been more clearly shown perhaps than in that of HENRI PHILIPPE PETAIN, the 87-year old Marshal of France. The Hero of Verdun is now a prisoner in German hands, and his resignation, confirmed in reports published in last Sunday's papers, may be considered to be a fitting finale to the colourful but misguided career of a weak and senile soldier statesman of France. When he assumed the leadership of the Vichy regime he used the royal "We" in his first proclamation. He seemed to seriously believe that he had become the real ruler of France. But right through it was LAVAL who was the real 'boss' and PETAIN was only a mere figurehead. It has puzzled many how PETAIN, himself an honest and honourable man, and imbued with a sincere desire to rid France of dishonest professional politicians, could work with a man like LAVAL who is an embodiment of all that was dishonest, mean and corrupt in French politics. And the answer to this curious state of things is the Marshal's senility.

As a writer puts it, the real business regarding France "had already been fixed between LAVAL and ABETZ, and HITLER and LAVAL. The old Marshal only came on the scene after wards, to fix the gentlemanly seal upon a cad's deal." Now, during the last days of his life, PETAIN has been put to the indignity of his broadcast being cancelled by the Germans. It is now stated that the broadcast is considered as postponed but not definitely cancelled, but, says the Vichy Correspondent of the Turkish News Agency in a message published on Wednesday, "from all indications it

(*Continued on page* 13)

CAUTIONARY COUNSELS—II

Krishnamma, who Spread Rumours and was Exploded

By R.G.

Krishnamma liked a lurid tale
With which to make her neighbours pale;
And what went in at either ear
Came out in accents loud and clear.
Surmises became certainties
And facts grew bigger by degrees.
A tavern brawl quite small and quiet
She magnified into a riot;
And any mere housebreaking she
Could turn into a robbery;
While, if a housewife winked an eye
At any friend just passing by,
She made it soon adultery.

Now when the Japanese began
To drop bombs on their fellow-man
Around the Indian Ocean's coasts,
And on the radio made their boasts
That they had strafed and bombed Colombo
And in two days Madras would bomb—O
Then did many a simple wight
Listen to Tokyo in affright.
Krishnamma too, her long ears glued
To her big radio set, subdued
Her patriotic mind and listened
Till with cold sweat her forehead glistened,
Then rushed the horror to repeat
From house to house along the street.

Next morning everybody knew
Vizag and Cocanada too,
Negapatam, Tuticorin,
Bandar, Trivandrum and Cochin
Had all been blown to little bits.
Krishnamma had a dozen fits—
But then recovered and went out
To spread the fresh bad news about.

That evening she was told for certain
A round ten thousand souls were hurt in
Pondicherry and Cuddalore.
She added twenty thousand more
And told the tale, no detail lacking,
Although with fear her teeth were clacking.

And then at dawn the following day
She heard her next door neighbour say
The raiders were reported coming
And you could hear the engines humming.
She did not recognize her own
Lost infant rumour, now full-grown,
But rushed into a shelter near
And hid all day in deathly fear.

When, driven by the need to eat,
She crept into the darkened street,
A sharp explosion just behind
So worked on her distracted mind,
"A bomb!" she gasped, and died of fright.
(It was Deepavali that night).

Moral.

Be careful how wild tales you spread
Lest they come back and strike you dead.

A RUSSIAN GIRL FLIER

By A. PRISS

SHE and the sky are close friends. Although she is still quite young, 22-year old, Lily Litvyak has already spent a goodly part of her life high above the clouds. She is a professional flier, having six flying years already to her credit.

From childhood days she dreamt of becoming an aviatrix. And since in the Soviet Union there is ample opportunity for every energetic person, be it a youth or a maid, to realize one's dreams, she began to study flying while still in her 'teens. She joined a Moscow aeroclub. Her mother did not quite approve of her passion for aviation; she would have preferred her daughter to become a doctor or an engineer. Still, she soon yielded to the girl's entreaties and gave her consent.

SOLO FLIGHT AT SIXTEEN!

Lily was barely sixteen years old when she made her first solo flight and since then she has been flying uninterruptedly.

After qualifying a full-fledged flier she remained to work as an instructor in the aeroclub. Prior to the war Lily had already succeeded in training fifteen new fliers, nearly all of whom later left for the front, distinguishing themselves in battles or being honoured by Government rewards.

It was, however, quite difficult for Lily Litvyak to secure admission to the ranks of military aviators. Applications of girls for admission to these ranks were stubbornly rejected.

She had to struggle hard to gain her objective. When finally admitted she found the job was only half done. The young aviatrix had still to win recognition which was even more complicated.

Lily Litvyak, the Russian girl flier.

Lily Litvyak took active participation in the war almost from its inception. She fought at Stalingrad, at Rostov, at the southern front. The girl made more than 130 operational flights and participated in 66 aerial battles. Meeting with many successes, she also met with some failures. Not infrequently had she to engage, single-handed, in battles against several enemy planes.

Here are Lily Litvyak (first from left), *Lieutenant Ekaterina Budanova* (centre)—*her best friend and splendid fighter pilot, and Vera Kusnetsova. This is Lily Litvyak's plane. The three girl fighter pilots have just received a new battling order and are studying the map prior to carrying it out.*

Once she had to fight alone against four German bombers. The numerical superiority of the enemy did not scare the courageous girl. She herself was first to attack the enemy. She succeeded in setting two enemy planes afire. The other two gave up the fight and hastened to turn tail.

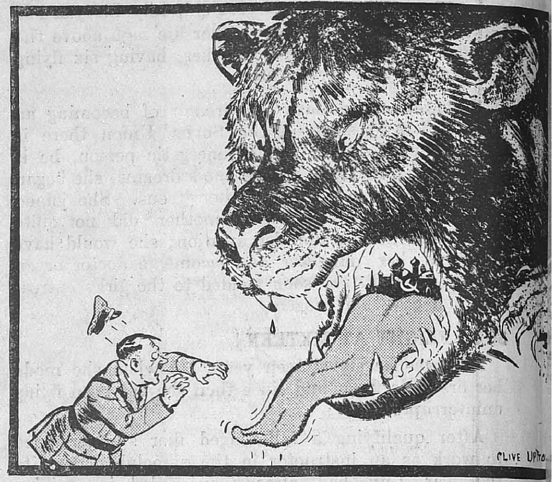
Lily Litvyak has succeeded, during her battling exploits, in downing, so far, seven German planes and in taking prisoner several enemy fliers, including one important " ace "—an officer wearing an iron cross. This aerial pirate was terribly indignant, when he learned he had been vanquished by a Russian girl.

The endless blue sky, to which the girl got so used, ceased to be a true and kind friend. It is now full of threats. Danger for the aviatrix is lurking now at every turn.

Not long ago, when helping to repulse a big enemy air-raid near Rostov, this youthful militant aviatrix nearly lost her life. She was suddenly attacked by six Messerschmitts. They surrounded the lone Soviet fighter in a deadly ring. It seemed Lily was doomed the more so since her ammunition had run out and a shell fragment had pierced the radiator, wounding her in the leg.

But here, too, fate was kind.

The wounded girl retained sufficient strength and self-possession to remove her plane, riddled with holes, out of the combat and safely to bring it to the aerodrome.



RED CARPET TO MOSCOW.

CIVILIAN HOBBY BECOMES A CAREER!

AMONG the many airmen to prove the claim that the Indian Air Force offers good opportunities to young men is aircraftman K. S. Sodhi, who is at an Initial Training Centre somewhere in southern India.

Sodhi's erstwhile hobby of photography is by way of becoming his profession. Before joining the Service he was an engine-driver, but no keener enjoyment was his than to be on the lookout for interesting scenes and people to 'shoot' whenever opportunity—aided by pocket money and photographic materials—occurred.

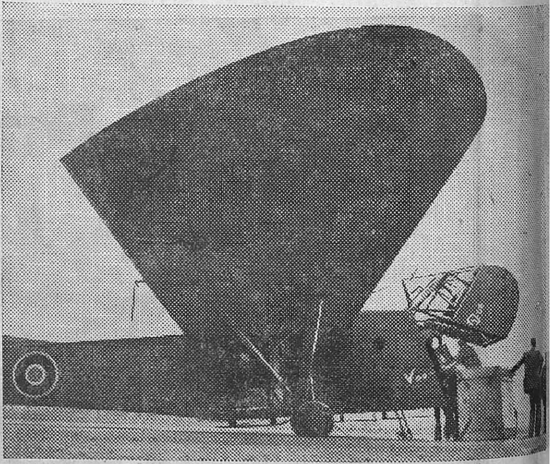
He devoted much study to photography, thereby gaining invaluable experience in developing, printing and enlarging. Many of the scenic pictures at railway stations on the Udaipur line are his handiwork.

Aircraftman Sodhi is a Sikh from the Punjab. Eleven years ago he became an engine-driver and last year found him a second-class driver on the railway at Jodhpur. Well-paid though such a responsible job is in India, photography remained his bent and photography his ambition.

Quite apart from ambition, however, he was a patriot and India needed many of her sons for the services. Sodhi, camera in hand, but with eye fixed on some aircraft in the sky, decided his hobby must wait till the war was won. He joined the Indian Air Force and was immediately—as expected—mustered in the engineering trade. But the leaning toward photography was not to be denied, the urge to capture something fleeting but worth while and record it for others and the future. And he realized he would do better in work he enjoyed rather than in something that was merely a job. By dint of perseverance—and no doubt worrying his immediate superiors—he obtained a transfer carrying with it prospects of photographic work, and is now official photographer at this growing Indian Air Force Initial Training Centre somewhere in southern India.

Sodhi's cameras are his great pride, three of 'em, the type used by advanced amateurs. While he was shooting the odd picture with a Voigtlander, I asked why he chose to use plates. He drew from his pocket another camera. " Pity films are so difficult to get," he said, looking with affection at his Zeiss Ikon. " It is possible to carry so many more films than plates."

At a cursory glance one does not realize the depth of character in this aircraftman. But meet the keen, energetic eye and you know at once this is no mediocre man, willing to accept just anything that might come his way. He knows what he wants and this he is getting in the Indian Air Force. In a few weeks' time he will realize his greatest ambition—to undergo a specialist course in photography at Ambala. Sodhi hopes to become an aerial photographer. And he will.

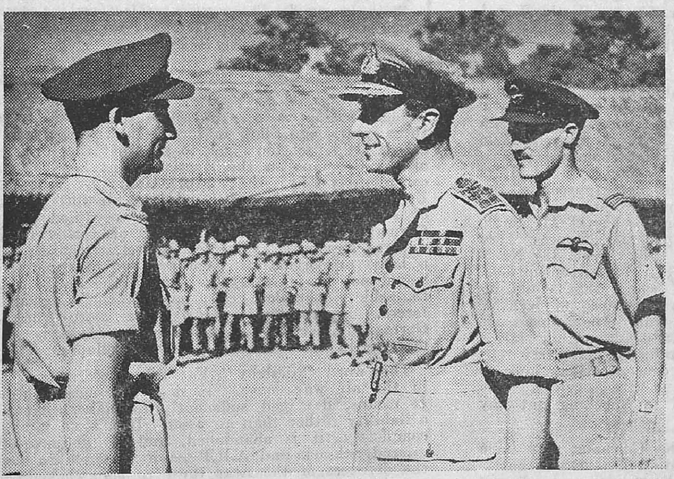


FIRST TRANS-ATLANTIC FLIGHT BY TOWED GLIDER OF R.A.F. TRANSPORT COMMAND.—The first Freight-Carrying Glider to fly the Atlantic has reached Britain from Canada. It was towed across by an aircraft of R.A.F. Transport Command. Photo was taken at a Canadian base before the start of the flight, shows.—*The glider drawn back for freight loading for the first flight from Canada to Britain. The large wing span (84 feet) of the C.G. 4-A. Trans-Atlantic freight-carrying glider is apparent and also her hinged nose.*

A Major and a Captain encountered a Nazi patrol in the desert and killed all except one—an officer who could speak English well and said that he had been educated at Cambridge. They decided to bring their prisoner back to the base and took turns guarding him. On the last day they relaxed their vigil. The German grabbed a gun, but was recaptured later. While the Britishers had their hands up, the Major, a Cambridge man himself, whispered to the Captain: " He's a bit of a cad. Couldn't be Cambridge".

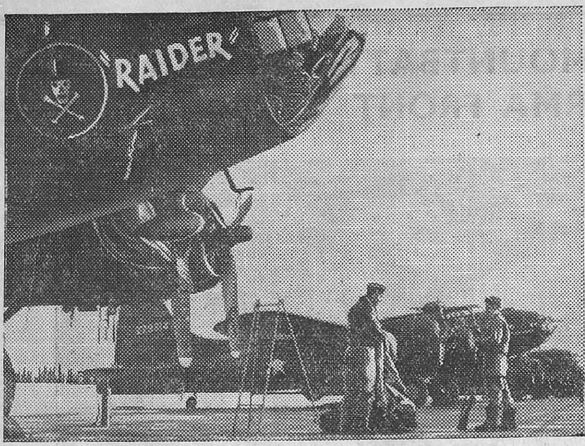
LORD LOUIS MOUNTBATTEN VISITS BURMA FRONT

Lord Louis Mountbatten, Supreme Commander, South East Asia Command, visited a number of airfields, some in jungle country, on the Burma Front recently. After inspecting airmen, the Supreme Commander told them to break "formation" and gather round him. He then addressed the men, using a tool box for a platform. Lord Louis received a tremendous reception from the airmen, who broke into rounds of cheering. The Supreme Commander was accompanied by Air Vice Marshal T. M. Williams, Air Officer Commanding, Bengal Command. Photo shows Lord Louis Mountbatten talking to LAC. S. W. Johnson of 54, North Gate, New Basford, Nottingham.



The picture shows Lord Louis Mountbatten talking to P/O J. M. Knowles of 146, Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn, New York.

Photo shows Lord Louis Mountbatten giving an informal talk to the airmen from the tool box which he used as a platform. Note the picturesque jungle country in the background.



ONE OF THE WORLD'S BIGGEST AIR BASE: LABRADOR LINK ON BOMBER ROUTE TO BRITAIN.—The huge Canadian-built air base at Goose Bay, Labrador, is a vital link on the bomber route to Britain. A constant flow of great United States bombers come in from the west, refuel and continue their journey to the battle fronts of Europe. Goose Bay is one of the biggest air bases in the world, and has grown up since the outbreak of war. It is equipped with full repair and maintenance facilities for planes, and "a modern surgery for any workers who may need running repairs." Bofors A.A. batteries protect it from possible air attack. Separate commands of the R.A.F., R.C.A.F. and U.S.A A.F. work together here as good friends and allies. Picture shows: Huge United States Fortresses fuelling up ready for the journey to England at Goose Bay airfield.

AIR STRATEGY—BRITISH AND GERMAN

By WING-COMMANDER L. V. FRASER.

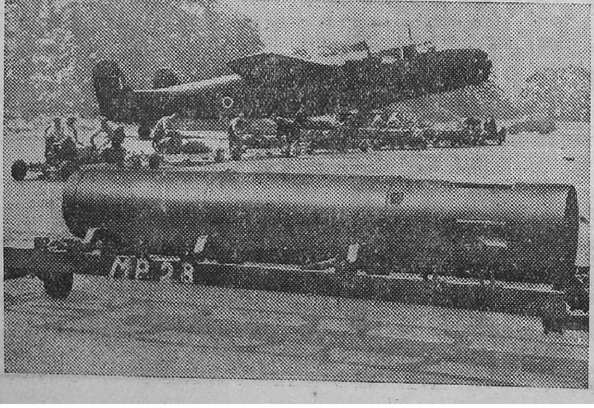
Berlin, now the world's most bombed capital, had the heaviest British raid of the war on Monday (November 22) night, when over 2,300 tons of high explosives and incendiary bombs were dropped. This was the second big raid on the German capital within 5 nights, the previous one being on last Thursday night. These two great assaults following each other so closely seem to suggest that the winter campaign "to emasculate Germany's war industries" announced by Sir Arthur Harris, Chief of the Bomber Command, sometime ago, is now in full swing. In the following article, Wing Commander Fraser refers to this "bombing concentration plan" and says that the Allied air strategy will go a long way towards winning the war.

THE German is a land animal. For all the fact that he might have had the whip hand on Britain when he launched his blitz in 1940, he is still essentially a land animal. This is an air war, just as World War 1 was a naval war; and just as he mishandled his fleet then, he has mishandled his Luftwaffe this time.

The fact is that the German High Command, however much it appreciated the value of air power, did not so much visualize the war as an air war as a war to be won by highly efficient ground forces aided by a strong air force. This military myopia caused them to send against Britain fleets of slow bombers practically unarmed and dependent on accompanying fighters for protection by day. They did not appreciate the potentiality of a self-sufficient bomber carrying enough fire power for its own defence. So the Royal Air Force Fighter Command and British ground defences were able to beat off the day attacks in 1940. True, the Nazis made hasty attempts to revise their early conceptions. They switched to night bombing, which they could do with comparative impunity at first because of lack of sufficient British night fighters and other forms of defence. But, having altered their plan, they failed owing to bad tactics. They preferred to carry out raids of long duration without concentration, and so failed to dislocate the A.R.P. and fire services. For this reason they did not succeed in knocking out any important industrial centres.

These two misconceptions by the Germans may have lost them the war. The British High Command's bombing concentration plan, conceived years ago and adhered to strictly, will prove in all probability to have gone a long way towards winning it. It was felt as long ago as 1940 that Germany could be seriously—perhaps decisively—crippled by the bombing of her war material in factories. Against all sorts of opposition, the policy was adhered to, and now in the ruins of Hamburg, Cologne and Ruhr, its justification can be seen. It was a big decision to take in those dark days more than three years ago, but it has been triumphantly vindicated. It is not too much to say that the forced retreat of the Germans on the Russian front has been assisted considerably by the destruction, by the R.A.F., U.S.A.A.F., Allied and Dominions air forces, of sources of supply in Germany and the occupied territories. Germany has a certain number of towns of a vital nature—Hamburg, Cologne, Kassel, Rostock. Already a large proportion of them are out of commission. It would not be necessary to destroy the entire remainder to achieve complete paralysis of the German armed forces. Destruction of only a few more would reduce German industry to a point where there is no safety margin—in fact, to the point of collapse.

The word "destroy" has taken on a new meaning in the air war sense. It does not mean obliteration. It means, damaged sufficiently to make what is left—a liability rather than an asset. If a town is obliterated completely, it is abandoned, and its defences—fighters, ground ack-ack and A.R.P.—are available to strengthen the defences of the next town to be attacked. But, if a town is damaged so severely that its production level falls abruptly while there is still a nucleus of revived production units left, then the administration has all the work of rebuilding and transporting machinery and materials, and the military authorities still have to defend it against a potential resumption of attack. It is this latter picture which air strategists have in mind when they say that a town is destroyed.



BATTLE OF THE RUHR: BACK STAGE SCENE AT A BRITISH BOMBER STATION.—It is the untiring "back stage" work of men and women of the R.A F and W.A.A.F. which makes it possible for Britain's heavy bombers to keep up their almost nightly blitz on the Ruhr: home of Germany's heavy industries supplying the "wehrmacht".

Picture shows: Bombing up a Halifax. The great plane seems dwarfed by its terrific bomb load.

UNDERGROUND EUROPE AWAITS THE SIGNAL

By LAWRENCE WOLFE

WITH the collapse of Italy Hitler stands alone, waiting for the zero hour, the real Battle of Europe, which will be the greatest punitive expedition of all time. But while he is feverishly preparing to meet the shock from the front he must also keep constant guard on the rear. For behind him, awaiting their grim chance, are the people he has reduced to worse than slavery through nightmarish years of oppression, watching with cold hatred in their eyes and vengeance in their hearts—and in their minds the knowledge that the hour of Hitler's doom approaches.

What are the enslaved peoples of Europe going to do when the storm breaks? Will they fall upon the Germans and exterminate them when the Allies invade the mainland? No! The enslaved people know better than that. They realize that any attempt at a general uprising would immediately be drowned in blood.

But meanwhile there are the organized armed forces of the enslaved peoples. It is they who are to-day causing Hitler to look fearfully over his shoulder. It is these organized forces that ultimately will act in the rear of the Axis hordes, attacking at just the right moment and delivering the blow that will prepare the way for the final reckoning. Let us look at the picture.

YUGOSLAVIA

The guerillas of Yugoslavia have already been in action for more than two years, defying the combined power of Germany, Italy and their Hungarian and Bulgarian vassals, and giving the German General Staff one violent headache after another.

To-day we have the enemy's word for it that every Yugoslav guerilla is a "walking arsenal," armed to the teeth with rifles, tommy-guns, revolvers, daggers and anything else he is able to carry. And they are dressed in German uniforms. But in addition to small arms, the guerillas also have heavy machine-guns, artillery, armoured cars and even tanks.

Of course, the Yugoslav guerillas have received arms, ammunition and other things from the Allies. Less credible but nevertheless true—and highly significant—is the fact that the Yugoslav guerillas are also purchasing war material for cash—from high-ranking German officers and prominent Nazi civilians.

GREECE

Guerilla activity does not amount to a regular war yet, but promises to do so soon. The National Bands—as they call themselves operate in units of 500 men, but are combined under a single supreme command, which is in touch with the Allies and is receiving equipment from them. The National Bands "cover" the whole of Greece, from the Pindus Mountains in the north to Matapan in the south. They include hundreds of army officers, the entire former police force of Central Greece and thousands of peasants. The National Bands also have a "navy," which frequently captures small Axis ships carrying supplies.

As a result of organized guerilla activities, Axis troops no longer dare to move in any part of Greece except in large formations; the Germans were obliged to take control of all roads and railways in Greece because the Italians were incapable of preventing guerilla attacks on road convoys and trains; and the Germans have brought back several fresh divisions from Russia to guard the main routes from Central Europe to the Balkans against Greek and Macedonian guerillas.

FRANCE

Here emphasis is not on present guerilla activity, but on the existence and future potentialities of a vast underground army. That army first declared itself a year ago when, to the amazement of the free world, it began to send regular communiques to General Charles de Gaulle in London from the Regional Commands into which France had been divided. To-day it is clear that the minor battles that were fought against the Germans in various parts of the country were "realistic exercises" of the underground army.

There are many signs to indicate that the army is well organized, officered and armed. As to its numerical strength—Hitler, looking over his shoulder with growing anxiety, seems to think that if another 250,000 men were removed from France the underground army would be too weak to matter. But whether he gets them or not, the underground army will be strong enough when the day of reckoning dawns.

It certainly seems to possess one of the main essentials, a good system of communications—not only inside France but also between France on the one hand and Britain and North Africa on the other. Observe the outward traffic alone. The scores of known escapes from France include those of General Beynet, General Suffren, Air Marshal d'Astier de la Vigerie and other high-ranking officers. Surely the Nazi authorities must have kept a special watch on all these men? Then how did they manage to get away?

The explanation is, at least partly, that there are many prominent Nazis in France to-day who are trying to save their skins by promoting the efficiency of the communications of France's underground army.

HOLLAND AND BELGIUM

Resistance is as strong and death-defying as ever in the Low Countries, but it is not of a military character, even as regards "realistic exercises." Underground military organizations are known to exist both in Belgium and Holland, but owing to the smallness of these countries they will not be able to come out into the open until the Germans are actually "on the run."

NORWAY

Guerilla activity is confined to attacks on small groups of German soldiers on land and small boatloads of them in the fjords and inlets. At the same time Norway has a secret military organization, the Patriot Society, whose members have pledged themselves to see that when Germany falls not one German or Quisling shall leave Norway alive.

The Patriot Society has been accumulating arms, ammunition and stores for many months, partly with the aid of deserting German soldiers but chiefly by raiding German dumps.

Of course, they also have other sources of supply—for communications between Norway and Britain are at least as good as between Britain and France.

POLAND

The Poles are not likely to play a direct part in the Battle of Europe, at least not at first; but the guerilla situation there presents exciting possibilities. The Polish guerillas are bound to become stronger and stronger with every Russian advance, and may eventually establish a "second front" of their own in the rear of the German armies in the East.

Polish guerilla activity is all the more significant because it was resumed only at the beginning of this year, after a pause of nearly three years. Their numbers are increasing daily, and it is known in London that they are well fed, well clothed and well armed, and also possess many horses.

In Czechoslovakia there is no guerilla activity. The Czech underground army, which is known to exist, will not be able to go into action until after the German defeat.

—*Condensed from* The New York Times Magazine.

RUNNING COMMENTARY

(*Continued from page* 8)

can be gathered that acute crisis is reigning at Vichy." It was to the interests of the Germans to keep PETAIN as the head of the State, because in spite of his blundering policy, his personal weaknesses, and his unconscious crimes against France, he seems to still command the respect of considerable sections of the French people. Now his resignation may unleash the forces which permitted themselves to be kept down on account of a false sense of personal loyalty to an old French patriot. His exit may help to stengthen the underground movement in France for freedom. This is what the Germans are afraid of.

WHAT'S IN A MOUSTACHE?

"I wish you would shave that moustache off, John. You look like Hitler."

"Don't worry, dear. The neighbours know I'm no dictator."

GUERILLAS IN NAZILAND

By SHEIKH A. ABDULLAH

IN almost every country now occupied by Hitler men—which is synonymous with jungle men—patriotic men and even women are challenging their cruel masters, and guerilla warfare is afoot.

The most important group of Albanian guerillas is in the north of the country. It is commanded by a Muslim colonel, the former C.-in-C. of the former Albanian gendarmerie. Another operates under Major Abass Kupi, a renowned Albanian Muslim soldier. He was the man who first opposed the Italian landing at Durazzo when the Italians invaded the country. So successful has been the effort of these Albanian guerillas that no occupation soldiers dare to venture out of their camps alone, and certainly not at night even in groups.

These guerillas operating in the region of Valona—in the south-west of Albania—again and again have cut the pipe-line leading from the Albanian oil-wells. In the direction of Scutari, too, they have occupied the copper mines of Rubigu.

In the neighbouring country of Yugoslavia similar conditions obtain. "A passenger steamer was sailing quietly up the river, which was at that time in full flood," says Mr. Sudjic in his book entitled "Yugoslavia In Arms." There were very few civilians on board, for the simple reason that very few people were permitted to travel in Serbia. The ship was, in fact, being used as a troop transport; it carried a large contingent of German soldiers, and in the hold were ammunition, provisions, mail and various other military freight. When the ship arrived at Umka, there were no dock workers on hand to help bring her into the quay. This did not strike the Germans as particularly suspicious. The captain manœuvred the ship and stopped the engines.

"Then, through the gathering dusk, a voice shouted in German: 'Surrender or we fire!' There was no surrender; and the battle began. The patriots boarded the ship, and when they were through, not one German soldier survived. The ship was quickly unloaded, its cargo was transferred to waiting vehicles, and then it was sunk. The Germans never succeeded in finding any trace of the captain or of the crew."

There are many more stories of gallant defence for the liberty of their country, which can be related about the Yugoslav guerillas.

And what cannot be said about the Russian guerillas—the kings of guerillas! Here is only one example. Young Nikolai was a dare-devil; and he hated the look of a bridge which the Germans had recently repaired, and used with considerable effect to control his village. He would blow it up, even if he were blown up himself in the attempt, said Nikolai to himself.

The night was dead silent, but Nikolai's ears seemed deafened by the sound of his pounding heart. Beside the faintly lapping water of the river, he dropped suddenly—for did he not hear the sound of the heavy boots of a German sentry on the bridge?—to his full length. Then he heard other voices—Germans, talking about the darkness of the night, and difficulty of aiming machine-gun fire, should any adventure demand it. Nikolai, thanking that darkness, crawled upon his belly, inch by inch, towards the bridge.

Now, he crouched; now, twisting and turning, he was under the bridge; his fingers worked noiselessly, for fixing the charges in position in the dark, especially when a German was no further than 20 yards, is no easy matter. At last the fuse, too, was fixed; and Nikolai crept back. He had hardly gone a hundred yards, when an explosion rent the air. The German machine-gun was spitting fire, but the job was done; a German troop lorry had struck the mine and been blown with the bridge "and all." There are many more Nikolais in Russia, who will not allow the Nazis to remain upon their soil; and, indeed, guerillas elsewhere, too, will not let the Nazis in peace.

UNDER THE VERY EYES OF THE GESTAPO

YET another story of the courage and ingenuity of those who outwit the Nazis by running underground news sheets in the occupied countries of Europe was told in a recent B.B.C. Radio Newsreel. It is a story of Poland—of a newspaper which was sold openly in the streets of Warsaw, under the very eyes of the German Gestapo.

The Germans publish a Nazi daily newspaper in Warsaw. They've given it a Polish name, and they print it in the Polish language. Some little time back a band of Polish journalists made a perfect, but fake, copy of this Nazi rag. Its appearance as to size, type and paper was identical with the original. But across the front page it bore, in huge letters, the words "SPECIAL EDITION," followed by a sensational account of the declaration of war by one of the neutral states.

Newsboys ran through the centre of the city shouting "Special Edition! Special Edition! Sensational News!" The papers were quickly bought up. But readers discovered, to their astonishment, that instead of the specified sensational news, this edition brought them true and uncensored news from all parts of the world, and especailly, about Poland's own resistance to Germany. One article was headed: "The Whole of Europe Working for Victory." The following line read: "Berlin: from a Special Correspondent." And this is what it told readers:—

"There is great satisfaction in German industrial quarters on account of a large and unexpected influx of workers from all parts of Europe. A large percentage of the workers arriving from France, Belgium, Holland, Norway and the General Government are highly skilled workers in the actual industry." Then followed this comment: "All this, of course, is tripe. Not only is there *no* satisfaction in German industrial quarters, there is great uneasiness on account of the dangerous lack of manpower, which amounts in some branches of industry to a catastrophe. This is the reason for the urgent recruiting of contingents of workers from the whole of Europe. This is the reason for the fatal man-hunts here in Poland, in our streets, on our railway stations and throughout the countryside."

HOAX DISCOVERED

In the next column was a second large heading: "When Will War End? An Answer to the Burning Question." Purporting to be a DNB report from Berlin, it said: "In connection with a certain war-weariness which may already be observed, and the question 'When will war end?' which is heard pretty often now, responsible German quarters wish to draw attention to a statement made by Chancellor Hitler, who, in his New Year Speech for 1941, said that '1941 will be the year of final victory.' Apart from this, responsible German quarters have nothing to say and are waiting for fresh prophecies by the Fuehrer."

When they discovered the hoax, the Germans were furious. But by that time all the papers had been sold. Nor were the Nazis mollified by the Warsaw citizens' air of secret elation.

UNDERGROUND BATTLE

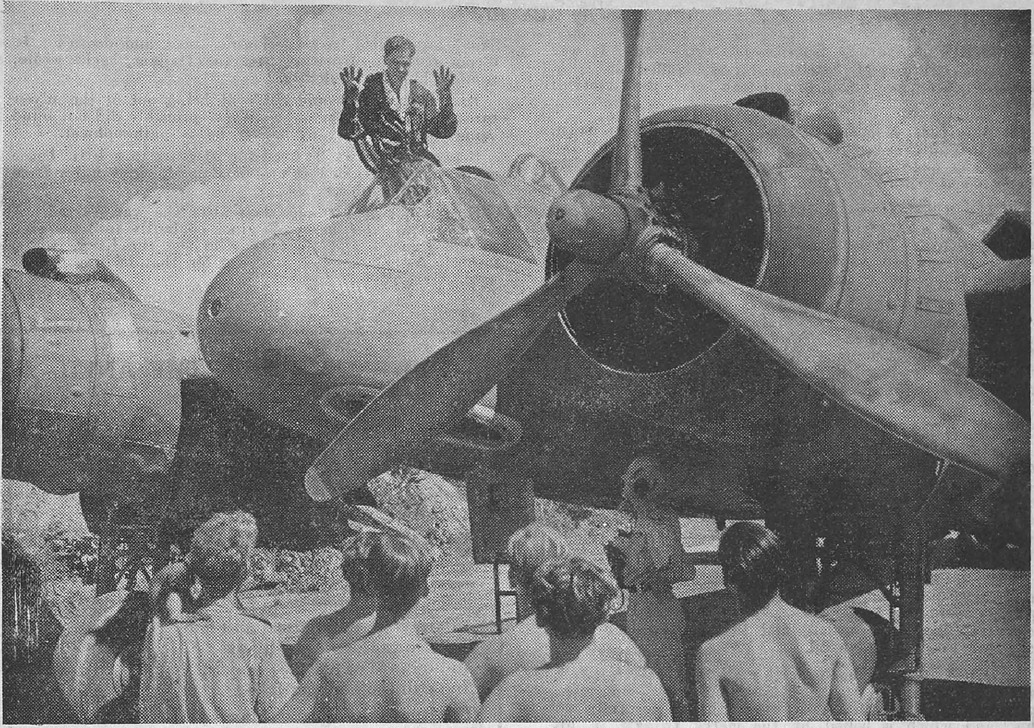
"From Western Europe there have been many signs and signals that our growing strength has put new heart into the imprisoned millions. When the conqueror's boot is on your windpipe it is not possible—or—necessary—to give three hearty cheers for the victories of liberty; but underground communications have improved and the waxing of the underground battle cannot be concealed."—(DAVID LOW, *in "Calling Australia and New Zealand," from the B.B.C. in London.*)

A British officer came in for a good deal of glory in the Libyan campaign. The Italians attacked his advance post in the middle of the night, and he was forced to retire before a greatly superior force. Suddenly he remembered that he had left his false teeth behind in his tent.

This was more than he could bear. He called for five volunteers for a raid on the post and when they arrived they were surprised to see the Italians disappear in a cloud of dust without firing a shot. A runner was sent back for the rest of the unit, and they finished the night in possession of their post—and the false teeth.

The story, without any mention of the teeth, found its way back to headquarters and in due course the officer was decorated for leading a desperate and successful enterprise.

R.A.F. BEAUFIGHTERS IN BURMA



R.A.F. "LOCO BUSTERS".—R.A.F. Beaufighter Squadrons maintain a constant offensive against Japanese controlled railroads in Burma. One Squadron alone has destroyed or damaged 100 locomotives.
The pilot of an R.A.F. Beaufighter signals "eight more" to the delighted ground crew.

SUPPLY BY AIR

Supplies for forward troops on Assam-Burma border areas are dropped by parachute. Parachutes and supplies are packed by Indian troops
Indian troops packing supplies in special containers.

GENERAL CARTON DE WIART

By GUY EDEN

THINGS in Norway looked—and were—bad. It was April, 1940. The British forces, landed at such hazards, were being forced to withdraw before the victorious Germans.

It was that moment that a sapper, name unknown, chose to pay this tribute of faith to his general: "The Chief was never on the losing side, *and he is not going to be on it now!*"

"The Chief" was Lieut-General Adrian Carton de Wiart, V.C., D.S.O., who has been appointed special military representative with Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek. He will represent Mr. Churchill as Minister of Defence and also the Supreme Commander, South East Asia Command.

In April, 1941, Carton de Wiart was flying to take up "special employment" in the Middle East when his plane was forced down on the Mediterranean, and he has spent his time since then as a prisoner in a house 30 miles from Rome, tending the broccoli and the tomatoes, and, no doubt, thinking.

THEN, DISAPPEARS

An unvarnished account of the life and exploits of Carton de Wiart would be rejected by most readers as sensational fiction, for he has lived a full and adventurous life, flitting in and out of the military, diplomatic, political, Court, social and sporting worlds, disappearing for years to reappear in some astonishing new role, in some unexpected part of the world.

I should have been surprised if, even in captivity, this real-life Elusive Pimpernel had been entirely out of the picture. May be, when the whole strange story of events comes to be told, we shall find that he has, one more, out-Hollywooded Holywood.

Carton de Wiart "has everything." He is six feet tall, slim and agile. A great, brushed-out grey moustache gives him an appearance of ferocity that is certainly not his, and which is belied by the merry twinkle in his eye.

Yes, his *eye*, for a black patch over his left eye socket, a crooked walking-stick hanging on his empty left sleeve show that he has not come unscathed through his adventures. His arm he left on one Flanders battlefield, his eye was lost on another.

He has been wounded 11 times—8 times in World War I, twice in the South African war, and once in Somaliland.

He got his V.C. in 1916 when, in the midst of a fierce battle, he took over the command of three other battalions whose colonels had fallen, and kept up morale by strolling unconcernedly about, armed with a walking stick, in the hail of fire.

Twenty-five years later, in Norway, while the Germans were blitzing Namsos, Carton de Wiart strolled out again, this time among the bursting bombs.

Regretfully and reluctantly (as he wrote to the local mayor) Carton de Wiart and his men had, on orders, to leave Norway, and soon afterwards he was travelling to the Middle East to take up his special appointment. Even his capture by the Italians—an event that seemed to put him out of the war for good—was like a thriller.

The aircraft crashed in the Mediterranean, and for two hours the passengers clung to it. When the waves broke it up, Carton de Wiart and the others struck out for the shore. For two solid hours they swam, and it was seen that the one-armed general was all the time supporting a fellow-passenger, whom he got safely ashore.

When he landed, soaked and dripping as he was, he took charge of the "local situation" and soon had his captors saluting and obeying his orders.

MODEST, WITTY

He is that sort of man. A man with a natural air of command and a soft but compelling voice. A man of extraordinary modesty and quiet—occasionally caustic—wit.

"I'm afraid" said he, addressing a recruiting meeting in Northern Ireland, and looking quizzically at his empty sleeve, "I'm not much of an advertisement for the Army."

Yet, modest as he is, he knows what he wants and usually gets it. When he was captured, his wife said of him: "He is not one to kowtow, and he doesn't like being bullied." He certainly isn't and doesn't It is not perhaps surprising that the Italians, as he wrote, treated him "excellently."

Except that he would chafe at being out of the adventures of the war, Carton de Wiart probably did not mind being a captive, for by nature he is philosophical.

Between the wars he lived for 20 years in a little house on a vast, wolfridden estate in Poland, eight miles from the Russian border.

He got out by air some days after the war started. A week or two later he strolled non-chalantly into his club in St. James's and then went to see the King, whose father's A.D.C. he had been. After that he was "back in the Army."

—*Daily Express.*

WEHRMACHT ON THE ANVIL

Still the hammer falls.
The arrogant legions crack
And step by step fall back
Across the plains to lines long left behind.
No help nor rest they find
But burnt and broken walls.
And still the hammer falls.

Upon their front now falls
And on the flank and rear
To make them huddle in fear
An army stern, fanatical and fierce.
Their forts the pincers pierce
And onward vengeance crawls.
And still the hammer falls.

The Russian vengeance crawls;
Behind, guerilla bands;
In front, strong armoured hands
Seizing their throats to strangle out the breath
Poisoning the world. Black Death
They worshipped; them Death calls.
And still the hammer falls.

Cold hunger them appals.
The doom they meted out
To millions, with a shout
Of bestial joy, returns with deadly grin
And eyes and teeth sunk in
To hail Destruction's thralls.
And still the hammer falls.

Beat through the broken walls,
Great Russian hammer; beat,
Break small in defeat
Their blackguard war machine and boasted gear
Of torture, filthiness and fear.
The tiger wounded sprawls—
And still the hammer falls.

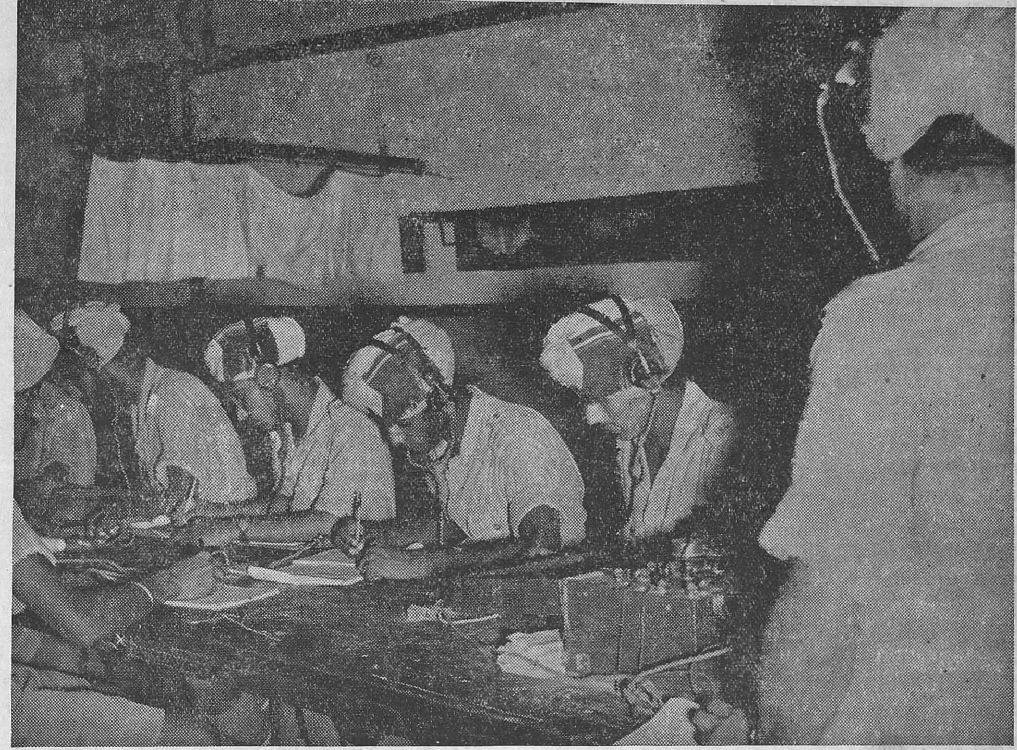
—*R.G.*

One of the Royal Australian Air Force training stations is set in the heart of rich pastoral country that includes some of the best properties in the Commonwealth. So trainees making their first solo flights are advised unofficially: "If you get lost land alongside the best-looking home-stead you can see. You might do yourself a bit of all right."

The other day a young man acted on this advice, made his landing near a large house standing in well-kept grounds, walked up to the front door, and rang the bell. It was answered by a trim-looking maid.

"Sorry to bother you, but can you tell me where I am?" he asked hopefully.

"Certainly," said the maid. "This is the——Mental Home."



'A' CORPS OF SIGNALS AT RAWALPINDI.—Signals Recruits under training receiving instruction in morse. At this stage they receive at about 10 words per minute. Before a trained Signalsman passes his test he has to read 15 complete messages in as many minutes.

WEEKLY JOTTINGS

By "CHRONICLER"

EVENTS ON THE SURFACE—LESSONS FROM THE FIRST WORLD WAR—THE UNDER-CURRENTS—THE BALKANS—AUSTRIA'S ROLE IN FUTURE EUROPE—SOUTH-WEST PACIFIC—NEW OFFENSIVE.

This week has been rather dull in the movement of events on the surface. In Italy the Allies have their progress stayed on account of the rains; on the Russian front the Soviet army is meeting very heavy counter-offensives from the Germans in Western Ukraine; while in the South-West Pacific theatre General MacArthur, in his vigorous attempt to take Rabaul, is wearing down, as a preliminary, the Japanese stronghold in Bougainville. A large offensive has also been started in the Central Pacific against Gilbert Islands, which is regarded as the beginning of an amphibious thrust directly against Tokyo. These are movements which will have far-reaching consequences in the future; but the week, by itself, has been dull in the matter of actual achievements on the surface. None need pause to pick out and view in isolation such incidents as the evacuation of Zhitomir in Western Ukraine or the German occupation of Leros in the Dodecanese, and write a commentary thereon; no victory was achieved in any war without reverses between the start and the finish, and disproportionate and unfavourable comments on reverses will not add an iota of military intelligence to the already existing quantity of it, but will only serve to create a crack in the public morale.

The first World War must have given us various lessons in reverses; they did not upset the ultimate victory. Early in 1917 the situation on land changed greatly for the worse. The Russian Revolution occurred, and its immediate effect was to make remote any prospect that the Russian armies, half crippled since their disasters in 1915, might again pull their weight in the war. And Rumania, joining the Allies in the late summer of 1916, had been overrun like Serbia, while the Allies were ineffectively hammering at the Western Front. The troubles, however, did not cease with the loss of the Allies; both the French and the British in turn exerted themselves in such a fashion as to reduce their own weight. At the end of 1916, Joffre had given place to Nivelle who framed a plan to break the deadlock in the West, and rashly persisted in it when its foundations were upset by the German withdrawal to a massive and shorter line of defence in the rear, the famous Hindenberg line. The consequence was a disastrous repulse and its sequel a widespread series of mutinies among the French troops, sick of being thrown against unsubdued machine-guns.

These are real calamities in the course of a war at a critical stage as it was in 1917, and they are powerful enough to influence even the final victory. To-day, however, the situation is entirely different. The offenders against civilization are getting more and more isolated and the Allied camp is growing in solid strength so as to shatter the enemy's nerves and hopes. There is neither desertion nor mutilation in the Allied camp, while every move on the chessboard seems to be taken after establishing contact with the point of victory.

THE UNDER-CURRENTS

The under-currents of adverse developments against the forces and moral resources of the enemy have been far more manifest during this week than the events of Leros or Zhitomir. The situation in Rumania has thoroughly deteriorated and the task of sustaining it against adverse forces from all sides is well nigh impossible for Hitler, unless he commits not less than one-quarter of his armies to defend Rumania. The Allied Air Force, taking off from Italian bases, has begun to pound Sofia, the Rumanian capital, while General Vatutin's Russian forces are almost on the borders of Rumania. It is already time Rumania decided one way or the other; and there can be no doubt how the decision will finally rest. Rumania, after the first World War, had been a country that never knew peace or progress; she presented the spectacle of a nation that had never known any but coercive governments and corrupt administration, and showed no sign of developing any party that paid more than lip service to the ideals of honesty and efficiency. She has been one of the weakest links in the Balkan chain and must be allowed to develop for some time under the comfortable shade of a powerful state like Russia.

It was only due to Nazi influences that Rumania broke loose from the friendship of Soviet Russia with whom she had signed a non-aggression pact in 1934. And Rumania's move will be a deciding factor in Bulgaria's choice. There is nothing that need stand as an obstruction to Bulgaria falling in line with Russia; in days gone by, Russia had been a great champion and protector of the Bulgarians and any differences that arose between them were entirely due to Bulgarian Government's antipathy towards Russian Communism. In the interest of peace in South-east Europe and in her own interests, Bulgaria must look up to Russia for protection against neighbourly aggression. It is no use depending upon mutual pacts and agreements among small nations; no mutual understanding, however sincerely made, can stand and face the mechanised columns of a powerful enemy. If pacts and agreements could do anything there had been plenty of them in the South-east Europe and the Middle East. But Bulgaria after the great war was too weak and too poor to indulge in any definite foreign policy. She was more or less in the position of a gambler who staked his shirt and vest on horses which had unfortunately lost the race; and the result was she was reduced to a much smaller position than before the war with a population less than that of London. It will be in the interest of post-war Russia too not to leave on her borders small, weak states of the type of Rumania and Bulgaria and it will not surprise anyone if Russia makes arrangements to forestall the secret penetration into these States of some conspiring interloper. In the period which immediately succeeded the last war, the Allies, especially Britain and France, sought to maintain these States in their integrity and sovereignty; but natural inconveniences prevented them from rendering more help than they actually could. Post-war Russia as an ally of the Great Western Powers, will naturally be entrusted with the task of maintaining peace and security in the Black Sea States. Echoes of Russian blows on the eastern theatre in Europe are already heard in Sofia and Bucharest and Allied pounding from the air in these capital cities has a softening influence on their resistance. This is the significance of the desperate Nazi counter-attacks in Zhitomir, after which the route is almost clear to the Rumanian and Bulgarian frontiers.

THE BALKANS

The incident at Leros too has neither been a victory nor a defeat for either side; it has been merely a test of air superiority in this area. The Balkans is in a state of ferment; Albania, Greece and Yugoslavia are openly in revolt against the Nazis. The Allies are aware of it and are maintaining an increasing pressure in this area as a prelude to a major military operation. A hesitating neutral like Turkey is the only obstacle to an early decision on this matter; but it will not be long before Turkey is compelled by the force of circumstances to decide one way or the other without any sort of pressure from the Allies. Russian advance through Rumania and Bulgaria will not be wholesome to Turkish sentiment and she will have either to draw sword or give up the dog-in-the-manger policy in the Dardanelles. In the Dodecanese too Turkey is averse to Allied occupation because she feels Allied intervention in this area would ultimately result in handing over these islands to Greece. Turkey is opposed to this idea now as ever before; and to-day she is flirting with Germany to prevent this transference as far as possible, in the same manner as she flirted with Italy when Sir Edward Grey in 1913 laid down the British policy denouncing the Italian occupation of the Dodecanese. But self-interest will have to give way to world interest and although Turkey's neutral policy does not definitely bear the taint of aggression, it does contain all elements of abetment which may have adverse influences at the final settlement of issues. Leros has only postponed the day of liberation of the Balkan States which must inevitably come as and when the Russian forces and the Allied armies join hands somewhere in South-east Europe. A liberated Balkans can have no peace or security in the event of a possession of the Aegean islands by one aggressive power or another; they are the bulwark of the freedom of the Balkans and must form a part and parcel of Greece. The other great factor in the preservation of peace in the Balkans is the supremacy of non-aggressive powers in the Mediterranean and no power on earth can shake it off from the hands of the Allies now so long as they are in complete occupation of the southern shores and the two outlets on either side of the sea. If the Leros incident is supposed to have exercised an influence on the attitude of Turkey towards the Allies, it has equally helped the Allies to decide as to who should be in possession of the Dodecanese Islands, whether Greece or Turkey, during the post-war era.

AUSTRIA

Just as Russia would form the coping stone of peace in South-east Europe, and Greece in the Balkans, so also would be the role of Austria in Central Europe. This part of Europe is one of the most inflammable quarters for trouble, especially as Prussian ambition for imperial power constantly breaks out in ugly forms. One of the most powerful elements of peace in Central Europe in the Middle Ages had been the first Reich, the Holy Roman Empire; but with the triumph of nationalism in the course of the nineteenth century and the coming of age of various non-German peoples who had their own ambitions and dreams of individual nationalism, the Holy Roman Empire became a mere empty form, a hollow fiction, and the one unifying force of Central Europe vanished along with it. In 1804 the last Roman-German Emperor Francis II proclaimed himself as Emperor of Austria, and he thereby created a new political entity, but not an empire in the traditional sense of the word. It became the task of Austria to foster a new imperial conception upon a new plane, though on a smaller scale; and for this task she was more qualified by her history than any other State. To bring together the various nationalities, their civilizations and languages for the purpose of achieving political and economic power and welfare—this was Austria's historical European mission in the new form. The possible scope of an empire in the old sense may have been revolutionised; the idea persists only in the spiritual sphere, and has been thrust back into the dematerialised, well-nigh transcendental state where in a different age and under different conditions, the first Holy Roman Empire had found the sources of its strength. No German State except Austria can keep alive the idea of the Reich, now transferred to the sphere of spirit and civilization, and the Allies display an extraordinary historical perspective when they decided to revive Austria as an independent and sovereign state.

SOUTH-WEST PACIFIC

American forces under General MacArthur have established beachheads at Makin and Tarawa islands and later on Apamana in the Gilbert group in the Central Pacific. The event took place on November 20. Makin and Tarawa islands are about 1,000 miles south-east of Truk, the heavily fortified Japanese base in the Caroline islands. Makin came into Japanese possession three days after the attack on Pearl Harbour. Landings on Makin and Tarawa may be regarded as the first move to outflank Japan's main Central Pacific bases. These islands are over 1,000 miles north of the nearest Allied held territory in the Solomons. American troops and marines were supported by a powerful Pacific fleet task force in carrying out the landing, and fighting continues on both the islands, although resistance is stronger on Tarawa. American swoop on Gilbert Islands has been hailed in Washington as the opening move in the long-awaited United States amphibious offensive in the Pacific. United States naval strategists have long favoured this method of approach to Japan, which they believe will bring quicker results than an Asiatic land offensive. A great naval battle between American and Japanese fleet is imminent, according to reliable military and naval circles.

UNITED STATES SCHOOL TRAINS CHINESE ARTILLERYMEN.—Chinese soldiers, in the foreground, lay a communication cable as other students observe the effect of artillery fire from a vantage point atop a hill. The men are being trained at a United States Army Artillery School in China, where, under American instructors, they are being taught all phases of modern artillery warfare with complete equipment.

WAR DIARY

BRITAIN AND GERMANY

18TH NOV.—Ludwigshafen, Berlin and other objectives in western Germany were bombed by Allied planes.

The British submarine *Tuna Yuns* has sunk three German submarines.

German bombers were over Thames Estuary and flares were dropped during a brief alert. High explosive bombs were dropped on a south-east inland town.

Field Marshal Smuts spoke at a reception given to him by the Royal Empire Society.

19TH NOV.—There was slight enemy activity over south and south-east England. Bombs were dropped at scattered points.

Attacks were made by the largest force of heavy bombers yet dispatched to Germany, on Ludwigshafen and Berlin. The Royal Air Force dropped about 2,500 tons of bombs including 4,000-pound block-busters.

Mr. Oliver Lyttelton, Minister of Production, declared that Britain munition output is now at the highest level ever reached.

20TH NOV.—The Royal Air Force bombers were again over Germany. Leverkusen and other objectives in the Rhineland were attacked by Royal Air Force planes.

Sir Oswald and Lady Mosley were released from Holloway prison in London.

The Minister for Aircraft Production, Sir Stafford Cripps in a speech at Bristol referred to "new and better Britain."

21ST NOV.—The British representative on the European Advisory Commission will be Mr. William Strang with the rank of Ambassador.

The British Ambassador at Washington, Lord Halifax, broadcasting on war said "We must at all costs avoid the temptation of trying to fix an early date when the war in Europe will be won."

22ND NOV.—Mr. Alfred Duff Cooper has been appointed as Britain's representative with the French Committee of National Liberation with personal rank of Ambassador. Mr. Harold Macmillan has been appointed British representative on the Advisory Council for Italy.

23RD NOV.—British bombers attacked Berlin in very great strength and caused heavy damage. Other objectives in western Germany were also bombed by Mosquitoes.

The British War Minister, Sir James Grigg, told a questioner in the Commons that he hoped to make a start at the end of the year reducing soldiers' service overseas to five years.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND ATLANTIC

18TH NOV.—The United States Secretary of State, Mr. Cordell Hull made a statement before a joint session of the Congress about the principles and policies for which the Moscow Conference stood and on the progress made by the participating Governments in carrying them forward.

19TH NOV.—The United States Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Artemus Gates, who has arrived in Britain, said "We feel the submarine menace is still with us, but that the trend is very definitely against the enemy."

21ST NOV.—It is unofficially believed in Washington that the long-expected meeting of Mr. Churchill, President Roosevelt and M. Stalin may take place shortly. It is also stated that General G. Marshall may be appointed the Commander-in-Chief for the Second Front.

22ND NOV.—President Roosevelt has appointed the United States Minister in North Africa Mr. Robert Murphy, to be member of the Advisory Council of the Allied Control Mission for Italy.

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INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

18TH NOV.—The Assembly concluded the food debate to-day.

Since they first moved forward on October 26, American trained and equipped Chinese troops have penetrated 20 to 30 miles farther into Burma. Tenth United States Air Force bombers attacked Heho, Ywataung, Pyinmana, etc.

19TH NOV.—It is understood that Governors from 11 provinces who are now in Delhi met in conference at the Viceroy's House for five and a half hours.

The Council of State began the debate on the food situation.

20TH NOV.—The Council of State continued the debate on famines.

It is understood that the Governors of Provinces had a second conference to-day presided over by the Viceroy. The conference lasted five and a half hours and discussed post-war reconstruction.

21ST NOV.—Major-General Sir Iven Mackay, Australian High Commissioner for India, said that the Commonwealth Government sincerely desired to meet India as a sister within the British Empire.

22ND NOV.—The High Commissioner for India, Sir Samuel Ranganathan, gave his views on how he thinks India will regard the question of freedom of expression when she achieves full freedom.

23RD NOV.—The Council of State continued in session.

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RUSSIA AND FINLAND

18TH NOV.—The Red Army captured Korosten and Rechitsa. Fierce tank battles raged around the Russian wedge at Zhitomir.

19TH NOV.—The Russians captured Ovruch and evacuated Zhitomir. The battle for Mozir marshes began.

20TH NOV.—Soviet troops penetrated the north-western outskirts of Cherkassy. There were fierce German counter-attacks designed to throw the Russians out of Ovruch. The Red Army occupied the district centre of Novye Stupenki, Yanov and Burakova and a number of other localities.

21ST NOV.—Russian troops fighting in the Dnieper Bend fought local actions and captured seven strongly fortified points and a railway station. South of Kremenchug 9 strong points were captured by the Red Army. In other fronts also the Soviet forces continued to advance capturing several localities.

22ND NOV.—Breaking through German defences east of Kremenchug-Znamanka railway line, the Russians have advanced some 20 miles on a 30 mile front. Three important heights in the Korostyshev sector were captured by the Red Army.

23RD NOV.—The long battle for Gomel has entered its final stage. The Germans have been completely cleared out from the right bank of the Dnieper below Rechitz. Grim battles on several sectors are reported.

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ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

18TH NOV.—Heavy rains continued to fall along the majority of the forward areas and operations by both the Fifth and the Eighth Armies were on a restricted scale. German counter-attacks were repulsed.

Elusis and Kalamaki airfield in Greece were attacked by North-west African Air Forces.

Allied hurricanes attacked Crete and spit-fires bombed targets in Rhodes.

19TH NOV.—The Eighth Army made a small advance north of Atessa. On the Fifth Army Front there were many artillery exchanges with the Germans. There was a lull in heavy fighting.

The British Commandos have carried out a successful raid on the island of Symi in the Dodecanese.

20TH NOV.—The Eighth Army now lines the Sangro river for 12 miles. It captured Perano.

21ST NOV.—Agnone, a key-point in the Iserniavasto road, has been captured by the Allied troops. Other places taken include Castel San Vincenso, Trochetta and Archi. King Victor Emmanuel has called upon all the patriots to fight the oppressors.

22ND NOV.—Allied forces have occupied Vastogliandi and San Pietro in the Central sector. The threat to Cassino has increased. Royal Air Force heavy bombers attacked Crete airfields.

A gap has been caused in Marshal Badoglio's "Government of technicians" by the disappearance from his ranks of Professor Epicarmo Corbino who had been announced as Under Secretary for Industy and Labour.

23RD NOV.—Heavy rains hampered action. Americans wiped out German machine gun nests north-west of Montazuila.

It is stated by the Zurich correspondent of the newspaper *Dagens Nyheter* that Mussolini has committed suicide on Monday.

The news of the Allied evacuation of Samos is revealed.

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VICHY, FREE FRANCE AND OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

18TH NOV.—General Catroux called on the British Minister at Beirut Major-General Spears. A French statement says that complete calm prevails in Beirut. A communique on Gen. Catroux's efforts for settlement was issued.

Liberator bombers of the 10th United States Air Force attacked targets in Norway.

19TH NOV.—Mr. Cordell Hull revealed at his press conference that the United States Government has sent a message to the French Committee of Liberation urging them to give the Lebanon full independence.

20TH NOV.—Royal Air Force bombers attacked military objectives in northern France.

The Berne correspondent of the *Svenska Dagbladet* confirmed that Marshal Petain has resigned. He adds that the Marshal is now a prisoner of M. Laval. It is also reliably reported that M. Petain is seriously ill with heart trouble.

General Catroux and Mr. Casey made statements on Lebanon crisis.

21ST NOV.—A communiqué issued by the French Committee of National Liberation states that General Catroux's proposal that the President of the Labanese Republic, Bechari el Khoury, be re-instated has been followed. M. Helleu, French Delegate-General in Lebanon has been requested to proceed to Algiers. The Labanese Ministers recently arrested have been liberated and complete order reigns in the Lebanon. General Catroux has been authorized to negotiate with President Khoury on the measures necessary for the rapid re-establishment of constitutional life in Lebanon.

22ND NOV.—President Bechari el Khoury and the released members of the Lebanese Government entered Beirut to-day. King Farouk and Premier Nahas Pasha have sent congratulatory messages.

23RD NOV.—Reports about Marshal Petain's serious illness, etc., are denied.

M. Yves Chataigneau, the French acting Delegate-General in Lebanon, announced last night the reinstatement of the Lebanese Chamber. The appointment of Emile Eddie as the Lebanon Premier had been cancelled. The Lebanon Parliament's decision to modify the constitution which gave rise to the present crisis was declared null and void.

The British Government's statement about the situation in Lebanon was made in the Commons by Mr. Richard Law, Minister of State.

A large force of aircraft from Britain attacked German-held airfields in Northern France.

Dr. Benes is reported to be in Moscow.

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NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

21ST NOV.—The Argentine Vice-President Senor Edelmiro Farrel speaking about Argentina's international policy said "Our attitude as far as the European conflict is concerned will be absolute neutrality."

The Swiss Federal Councillor for Justice and Police M. Edward Von Steiger said "Switzerland has proclaimed her firm determination not to depart from her neutrality."

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THE FAR EAST

18TH NOV.—The Allied troops extended their beachhead in all directions at Augusta Bay on Bougainville island. Allied air raids on Japanese positions were extensive.

19TH NOV.—In Western Yunnan province Jap troops made an unsuccessful attempt to cross the upper reaches of the Salween river; half of them were drowned while the remnants were put to flight. On the Central Yangtse Front Chinese and Japanese troops continue to clash on a zigzag line from the mountain south of Ichang to Tungting Lake area.

Lord Louis Mountbatten has now technically taken charge as Supreme Commander of the South East Asia Command and the first communiqué was issued from his headquarters to-day. It is learned, however, that his taking over is more or less a technicality. It will be some time before the setting up of the Command is completed and a further considerable period must elapse before large scale operations begin.

Australian troops are fighting within a mile of the Japanese jungle-concentrations at Sattelberg, north-west of Finschhafen in New Guinea. A majority of the 40,000 Japanese troops on Bougainville island are trapped beyond reach of help.

Col. Knox, United States Navy Secretary in a statement at his press conference said "We are ahead of schedule in the Pacific. Things are going on very satisfactorily in all phases, on land, on sea and in the air."

20TH NOV.—The Allied bombers attacked Sourabaya, the Japanese occupied Naval base in Java. Enemy installations at Buka and Banis were bombed. There was satisfactory progress in the three-pronged drive on Sattelberg.

The Japanese are continuing their broad advance on the Central China Front. They have pushed to points north and north-east of Changteh. Japanese troops entered Tzeli.

21ST NOV.—American forces have established beachheads at Makin and Tharawa islands in the Gilbert group in Central Pacific. A Jap 10,000-ton vessel was set on fire north-east of Rabaul. Sorong, Gasmata and other enemy occupied places were bombed by the Allied planes.

22ND NOV.—Australian troops have increased their pressure against the Japanese at Sattelberg.

23RD NOV.—American marines have landed in Abamana in the Gilbert Islands and have improved their positions on Tarawa and Makinatolls. The United States Navy Secretary, Colonel Knox, made a statement about the campaign in the Central Pacific at a press conference.

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